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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended): A method for manufacturing an optical fiber soot having a core portion, comprising steps of:

executing a vapor-phase axial deposition process in using an apparatus for manufacturing an optical fiber soot, said apparatus including a side burner having a combustion nozzle, -said combustion nozzle having a rectangular cross-section shape,

wherein,

said process includes a step of heating the core portion of the optical fiber soot with said combustion nozzle of the side burner in the apparatus according to a vapor-phase axial deposition method, a cross-section shape of a combustion nozzle of a side burner for heating a core portion is rectangular.

10. (Original): The manufacturing method according to claim 9, wherein a width of a rectangular cross-section of the combustion nozzle of the side burner is 0.7 times or more the diameter of the core portion.

11. (Original): The manufacturing method according to claim 9, wherein a length of a tapered portion of the core soot tip portion is controllable, by changing a height H of the rectangular combustion nozzle of the side burner.

12. (Original): The manufacturing method according to claim 9, wherein the rectangular combustion nozzle of the side burner is separated left and right at the center thereof.

13. (Original): The manufacturing method according to claim 9, wherein at least two layers of combustible gas are formed in the side burner.

14. (Original): The manufacturing method according to claim 9, wherein the length of the tapered portion of the core soot tip portion is controllable, by changing the nozzle tip shape (height of taper) of the burner hood to be attached to the burner tip portion of the side burner without changing the burner shape.